ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO THE

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.

21st October 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

In welcoming you in the name of His Highness the Maharaja once more to this city, I am glad to say that we meet this year under circumstances which have enabled us to enjoy some immunity on account of an abatement in plague. The marked interest evinced in this Assembly by His Highness opening its first session after his assumption of the administration, and the words of counsel spoken then have added to our responsibilities and deepened our gratitude to His Highness for his solicitude in the welfare of the country and the advancement of his subjects.

One event to which I wish to make a reference at the very commencement is the departure from our midst of our former British Resident Sir Donald Robertson to seek a well-earned rest in his native country after a long career of usefulness. His intimate association with the Government of this country during the minority of His Highness has left an abiding mark; and on this public occasion when we first meet in his absence, I take the opportunity of thanking him in behalf of us all for the interest he took in the affairs of Mysore. He has our best wishes for many more years of a bright and happy life.

I may take this opportunity of also mentioning of the honor we had during the year of a visit from that brilliant British General and present Commander-in-Chief of India, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum.

The constitution sketched in my last address has remained the same except for a change in one respect. A Revenue Commissioner was appointed as you know, with the specific object of providing for efficient supervision of the Revenue Department. He was also expected to make frequent tours and inspections. These objects were imperfectly realised principally on account of the combination of the office of the Revenue Commissioner with that of the Revenue Councillor. The latter had also to deal with cases in which he had already passed orders or expressed an opinion as Revenue Commissioner. On these and other grounds a separate Revenue Commissioner was appointed with whose duties were combined those of the Director of Statistics, who, it was found, after the completion of the Census, had not enough work to occupy his full time—an arrangement that has commended itself from the standpoints of economy, efficiency and sound principle.

With a view to secure the full benefits of the reformed methods of work recently introduced by the Government in the Account Department of the State, a financier of experience from the British Account Department has been selected as Comptroller for a period of three years. A financial branch has been organized in the Revenue and General Secretariat where other suitable reforms have also been introduced on the model of the Revenue and Agricultural Secretariat of the Government of India, those which were previously adopted from time to time being found partial and imperfect. Our thanks are due to the Government of India for their kind help in this matter. As a result of these reforms, the Muzrai Secretariat was separated from, and the Forest Secretariat was amalgamated with, the General Secretariat.

Finance.

The total income and expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 214,31,063 and Rs. 218,96,459 respectively.

The ordinary receipts amounted to Rs. 172,25,706 and the interest on investments to Rs. 1,91,537. The income from Railways was Rs. 7,08,796; that from Gold Mining was Rs. 18,33,804 and from Cauvery Electric Power Rs. 14,71,220.

The expenditure excluding that on interest Rs. 2,86,440, Railways Rs. 7,20,360 and Cauvery Power Installation Rs. 10,49,814 was Rs. 198,39,845.

The year's transactions on the whole show an excess expenditure of only a little more than Rs. 4,65,000 against

an anticipated deficit of about nine lakhs. The receipts during the year showed an increase of nearly eight lakhs over the estimate, which was mainly due to a large share of the Gold Mining Royalty having been credited to account within the year, (Rs. 3,01,705), to increased Railway earnings (Rs. 1,45,540) and increased consumption of Cauvery Power (Rs. 2,86,072). Simultaneously, certain savings also occurred or were enforced under the budgetted heads of expenditure. During the year there were also certain extra charges which could not be foreseen when the budget was framed. The breach of the Palar series of tanks in the Kolar District led to an enhanced expenditure of a little over two lakhs for their repairs and an addition of two lakhs was made to the Civil List. Our budget had provided for an expenditure of a little more than 215 lakhs, and but for the unforeseen charges mentioned above, you will perceive that the year would have really ended in an equilibrium.

Now comparing the receipts and the expenditure of the year with those of the year previous to it, the noticeable decreases in ordinary receipts were under Land Revenue and Sayer. The decrease in the former (Rs. 2,09,239) was due to the collection being less by about a lakh ; to the transfer of about Rs. 73,000, being assessment on vacant building sites, to the head of mohatarfa, under the orders of 29th August 1903 revising the rates of levy on these sites ; and the diminution by Rs. 33,066 in the sale proceeds of occupied lands. The fall in Sayer (Rs. 47,569) was on account of the smaller collection of supari halat. There were increases under Excise Rs. 72,000, Forest Rs. 79,000, Stamps Rs. 20,000 and other items.

Taking the expenditure now into consideration, the amount spent on the Second Cauvery Installation during the year was Rs. 10,49,814, and all the extraordinary items which I explained in my address of last year, such as the Palace reconstruction, Gold Field Water-supply, Marikanave Project, Installation and Delhi charges, Mysore City Trust, Empress Memorial, Plague and others, cost in the aggregate Rs. 22,76,000. About 3 lakhs were charged to provincial expenditure on account of arrears of maintenance charges of the Chamarajendra Water-works payable by the Bangalore City Municipality. There were also small increases of expenditure under Forest conservancy (Rs. 40,692), Education (Rs. 30,000), Medical (Rs. 69,918) and under a few other items. The table in your hands gives in detail explanations for the variations in the different items of revenue and expenditure.

The opening balance on the 1st July last was Rs. 134,74,685, of which Rs. 42,87,700 were in Government

securities and the rest in cash--Rs. 61,41,074 being in the Bank of Madras, Rs. 29,93,891 being in the State treasuries and Rs. 52,020 being with Messrs. Coutts & Co. The closing balance of Government surplus was Rs. 44,24,953.

The budget estimates for the current year provide for an income of Rs. 177,04,000 from Civil and Public Works heads, Rs. 17,00,000 from Gold Mining royalty, Rs. 15,00,000 from the sale of Electric Power and Rs. 5,61,000 from Railways, making an aggregate of Rs. 214,65,000 which is slightly in excess of the revenue realized during the previous year. The total expenditure is estimated at Rs. 219,75,000 which includes considerable provisions of an extraordinary nature. The capital outlay on the Cauvery Power Second Installation, and the Bangalore Electric Lighting and the Marikanave Project amounts to 14 lakhs. The outlay on the construction of Railways and the net expenditure on the Railway revenue-account come to 2¾ lakhs. Large allotments for special Public Works, some of which were begun in the previous years, have also been made :—4½ lakhs for the reconstruction of the Palace, over two lakhs for the restoration of the tanks which were breached during the heavy rains of last November, 1¼ lakhs for the Gold Field Water-supply Project, 1¼ lakhs for the restoration of Chikdevaroyasagara and Hemagiri anikats and Sriramadevaru dam, one lakh for Military buildings and one lakh for other special Public Works. For the improvements of Bangalore, Mysore and Shimoga, a grant of over 4¼ lakhs has been made. One lakh is provided for plague expenditure. The other special miscellaneous charges are,--the provision of a lakh for a statue of His Highness the late Maharaja Chamarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur and of half a lakh for the adjustment of outstanding charges in connection with the Delhi Camp. The programme of the year's operations therefore provides for an aggregate extraordinary expenditure of nearly 34½ lakhs, while the revenue derived from special sources after meeting the cost of special establishments maintained for the purpose is about 28½ lakhs. Excluding these extraordinary items on both sides of the budget, the anticipated net result of the ordinary revenue and expenditure of the year is a surplus of about a lakh.

Of the large projects undertaken, the First Installation, Cauvery Power, has been completed and is yielding us a handsome revenue. The Second Installation will shortly be completed and begin to pay from the second half of the current official year. The Gold Fields Water-supply Project is also practically complete and will ere long bring in the expected revenue. The major portion

of the Bangalore Electric Lighting Works will be completed during the current year. In a year or two, the Marikanave and the Palace reconstruction works will be finished. With the completion of these projects, much of the extraordinary expenditure which is being now incurred will diminish and the net annual income realized from them, which will exceed 30 lakhs, will enable us to lay by substantial savings in future. It will be remembered that an invested surplus of 100 lakhs clear of debt heads and a working balance of 75 lakhs at the beginning of the official year were stated last year to be essential to place our financial position on a safe footing. Our revenue surplus balance on 1st July last was Rs. 44,24,953, which it will be our persistent aim to raise to the required level of a crore of rupees in a few years by incurring extraordinary expenditure with care, and thereby conserving our surpluses. We may have however to direct our attention to the Railway development. Three different lines have been estimated for and out of these the Nanjangud-Erode line which promises to be useful may have to be taken up at an early date.

As for the amount required at the beginning of the year for working the treasuries it is satisfactory to note that our cash balance is in a fair way of regaining its normal proportion and the balance on 1st July last was Rs. 16,86,985 more than the minimum of 75 lakhs required on that date. Twenty-two lakhs of this amount have, I am glad to say, since been invested in the Government of India Securities.

Local and Municipal Revenue.

The receipts under all heads of Municipal income amounted to Rs. 8,33,680. Including the opening balance, the sum available for expenditure during the year was Rs. 11,58,825. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 7,60,645. The chief items of expenditure were Rs. 1,80,530 on conservancy, Rs. 14,585 on Registration of births and deaths, Rs. 2,05,391 on Public Works, Rs. 38,488 on Education, Rs. 50,568 on Lighting, Rs. 30,021 on Charitable Grants including Dispensaries, and Rs. 2,41,062 on Miscellaneous items.

The income under all heads from District Funds amounted to Rs. 6,84,857 and including the opening balance, the sum available for expenditure was Rs. 10,54,840. The actual expenditure was Rs. 6,64,204 of which Rs. 5,17,058 was spent on Public Works, Rs. 20,873 on sanitation, Rs. 25,434 on medical aid, Rs. 24,064 on accommodation for travellers and the rest on miscellaneous items.

The income under the head of Local Funds General amounted to Rs. 1,06,391. Adding to this the opening

balance of Rs. 3,03,928, the sum available for expenditure Rs. 4,10,319, of which an expenditure of Rs. 1,70,145 was incurred during the year.

Insurance.

The financial position of the State Life Insurance Fund was investigated and reported upon by an actuary in Edinburgh who found it to be very satisfactory. The more favorable rate of bonus guaranteed by this scheme, the extremely low rate of expenses of management, being but one-seventh of the average expense of the offices doing business in India, and the policy whereby the rate of interest earned by the fund has been fixed by Government at 3½ per cent per annum on each month's balance, are stated to be the main factors that have contributed to the excellence of the State Insurance system as compared with other systems. At the end of the year, the closing balance of this fund was Rs. 10,27,277-10-1.

Rain-fall and Season.

The average rainfall in Mysore for the year 1903-04 was 55·49 inches, which was 13·00 inches more than that for the preceding year and 10·17 inches more than the average for 31 years since 1870. The year is likely to remain ever memorable owing to the disastrous effects of the torrential rain which fell in the Kolar District and which swept away nearly the whole of the famous Palar series of tanks. In spite of these circumstances, the season was otherwise favourable. To relieve any possible distress in Kolar, His Highness the Maharaja was pleased to grant a substantial donation from the privy purse.

The unfavourable reports of the withering of crops for want of rain during the past few weeks which were being received from all the Districts were causing some anxiety. The timely showers, which have recently fallen have, I am glad to say, saved the situation and the prospects have everywhere now considerably improved and there is no reason to apprehend any large failure of crops.

Agriculture, Industry and Trade.

During the year under review, there was a net increase of 30,455 acres in the extent of land under occupation with an increase in assessment of Rs. 38,842. The net diminution under coffee was 1,940 acres with a net assessment of Rs. 489.

Revision Settlement.

As announced in my address of last year, the Revision Settlement was introduced into the taluks of Davangere and Hiriyur. The three taluks of Holalkere, Chitaldrug and Jagalur are now ready and the new rates will be announced next cold weather. The recently formed Taluk of Hosadurga is made up of parts of Holalkere and Hiriyur Taluks.

The average increase of assessment on account of the revision settlement has been calculated to be 22 per cent for Davangere, 20 per cent for Hiriyur, 15 per cent for Chitaldrug and 18 per cent for Holalkere.

The most noticeable effect of the new revision has been upon the garden rate, which has undergone considerable diminution. The average rate has been reduced in Davangere from Rs. 4-6-11 to Rs. 2-13-9 and in Chitaldrug from Rs. 3-14-5 to Rs. 2-8-2, there having been a corresponding decrease in the other taluks also. This is no doubt partly due to the large extent of dry lands (about 2,616 acres) which has been converted since the last settlement into garden by means of well-irrigation, without any aid from Government water and on which only dry rates have been levied. There has also been a general equalizing of garden rates, all extremely high rates having been reduced; and it is believed, that this liberal policy will tend to stimulate garden cultivation. In the Holalkere Taluk, already an extent of 1,015 acres of dry land has been converted into cocoanut gardens, without any artificial irrigation.

As the revision Survey of the whole of the Chitaldrug District has now been practically complete, the results achieved show that the enhancement in revenue has been moderate. This was one of those districts which suffered most severely from the effects of the dreadful famine of 1876-77. Yet its natural fertility and recuperative power have been so great that in spite of its scanty rainfall, it has not only completely recovered from the effects of the famine but has entered upon a course of continuous prosperity as shown by its increasing population and the increase in the occupied area, while still possessing possibilities of future development. There has been an increase of prices all round of 35 to 40 per cent since last settlement. The facilities for communication have also been vastly improved since then, and the opening of the railway has not only widened the market for its produce but has also helped in the development of its resources. With a view however to enable the tract to reap a full share of benefits which the course of events has brought to it and thereby secure its permanent progress unaffected by bad seasons and other adverse circumstances, the revised rates have as stated already, been adopted with much moderation.

The increase in the number of irrigation wells in the State is not quite so great as would be warranted by their importance, or the facilities which Government give, for their construction by advancing loans. Rs. 30,000 have been set apart for advances for this purpose during the present year also.

Supari halat.

The vexed question of affording relief to supari gardens to which I referred last year may now be said to be reaching a solution. The views of all those well acquainted with this industry have been before Government and an early announcement on the subject may be expected.

Coffee.

The prospects of coffee were slightly better, the prices realized being somewhat higher than have been obtained for some years past. Government have, after careful consideration and consulting experienced opinion, withdrawn the restrictions against cardamom cultivation being carried on within the margin of water courses, and have also reduced the minimum to 5 acres. These concessions will no doubt be highly appreciated by coffee-planters to whom, the question of how to supplement their produce has through the unsteadiness of the coffee market, become important.

Rubber Cultivation.

Government note with satisfaction the endeavours that are made to introduce this cultivation into the State and have been doing their best to encourage the industry by favorable rates of tenure, and help in selecting proper lands in so far as they are not prejudicial to other interests of Government.

An extent of 250 acres has under certain conditions been lately given to Mr. Strickland in the Shimoga District for purposes of experimental cultivation. These experiments in rubber cultivation were first successfully carried on in Bangalore by the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens.

Agricultural Chemist.

The samples that were analysed by the Agricultural Chemist during the year consisted of a large variety of substances such as sugar-cane, jaggory, coffee, famine foods, fertilizers, etc. Of these 50 are coffee samples which are being analysed to find out the constituent which determines its quality and nearly an equal number of famine foods is being analysed to find out their food value.

Experiments with varieties of sugar cane with different treatments in cultivation were made and the canes milled and boiled into jaggory of very good quality and colour which has withstood the monsoon effects. Three varieties of sweet potatoes and ground-nuts gave very good yield, out of which cuttings and seeds were distributed and sold to several landowners for cultivation. Experiments with varieties of ratoon crop of sugar-cane, ragi, cotton and castor are being carried on under different treatments. Several of the landowners have visited the experimental plots and seen the working of the improved implements and machines. Among the latter an American Hand Centrifugal and Spraying Pump has given good results.

Insect pests and plant diseases increased during the year. "Kole Roga" of arecanut and "Spike" disease of sandalwood are under investigation by the Cryptogamic Botanist and the Entomologist to the Government of India and the Botanist of the Government of Madras who visited the affected parts last year.

Three students have been working in the Laboratory during the year to undergo a course of training in Agricultural analysis and one of the subordinates has been sent to Poona to study the methods of experimental work carried on in the Government Farm of the Bombay Presidency.

Cattle Census.

A quinquennial census of agricultural stock was taken in September last.

Measures for Agricultural improvement.

In the last year's address reference was made to certain measures calculated to impart a stimulus to agriculture in Mysore. Three such were introduced during the year, and the first was the introduction of the teaching of practical agriculture into the Normal School at Mysore at an annual cost of Rs. 5,132.

A farm bailiff, three ploughmen, and a herdsman under the Agricultural Lecturer, have been sanctioned for the purpose. Arrangements have been already made for acquiring the necessary farm lands, for the sinking of wells therein, for constructing the needful buildings and for the purchase of the requisite implements and machinery. The instruction, accompanied as it would be with actual performance of the cultivator's active duties, will cover the entire range of elementary practical agriculture. Batches of 4 to 5 students will be given an acre of land each on which they will themselves be required to perform every kind of work connected with cultivation. About 80 students will be given, in addition to scholarships, which they draw from the Normal School, a farm allowance of Rs. 3 each a month so as to enable them to take extra nourishment necessitated by the nature of the hard physical work they have daily to turn out. The Agricultural Chemist will inspect the farm occasionally and furnish suggestions for improvement.

Next, a scheme for the introduction of improved methods of cultivation in selected holdings in each taluk, such as may serve to the neighbouring raiyats as examples of model cultivation, was sanctioned during the year, the essential principle of the scheme being the promotion of private enterprise supported and guided by the Government. Every Amildar has to select about half a dozen intelligent holders, one on an average to each hobli, possessing estates of decently fair size and willing to cultivate their lands as model holdings for the year. The Deputy Commissioners will help them in the matter of procuring

good seed, manure, etc., while Dr. Lehmann and Mr. Cameron will be ready to advise them free. Without exercising any undue control over the holders or interfering with the holdings themselves, it is incumbent on the Revenue officers to frequently inspect the areas and to endeavour to sustain the interest of the landowners in these experiments and to rouse it among the neighbouring raiyats. An account of these operations will be kept, so that reliable statistics thereof may be available.

The third measure provides for the holding, in the current year, of a show of agricultural and dairy produce, of local agricultural implements of improved pattern, and of breeds of cattle, at some of the selected District Headquarters. At these shows, it will be open to the owners of model holdings and others to exhibit their articles and suitable prizes will be awarded by the Government for the best exhibits.

Exemption of Building sites from Ground rent.

Rule 47 of the Revenue Rules was amended so as to annul the authority it contained for the levy of ground rent on agricultural lands appropriated for building sites. The Bombay system on which ours is based provides for the levy of ground rent in such cases. But in Mysore all such sites on which houses are built enjoy exemption. The Government of His Highness the Maharaja considered therefore that much hardship to the agriculturists was inevitable from a partial imposition of such tax only on all lands that might hereafter be diverted from agricultural purposes.

Garden Shraya Rules.

The rules for the grant of lands on shraya for garden cultivation were revised so as to make the terms more liberal and to remove the inelasticity which, to a certain degree, had rendered the former rules inoperative. Where delay is prejudicial, the Deputy Commissioner himself can grant the lands applied for, reserving for settlement the rate of garden assessment imposable. He is empowered to include under these rules lands unoccupied for more than three years preceding the date of application for the land. The grant of still more liberal concessions by Government where deemed necessary in such cases is also provided for.

Payment of Revenue.

Lastly, to afford convenience to the raiyats, Rule 91 of the existing Land Revenue Rules was amended so as to allow of payments of revenue, either in cash or by means of postal order, being made, at the option of the payers, into the treasuries of the taluks in which the lands on which the revenue is due are situated, or, with the special permission of the Deputy Commissioner concerned, into any other taluk treasury in the district or into the District Treasury.

Shekdari Service.

Another measure which I stated as engaging the attention of Government has recently been sanctioned and the improvement in the Shekdari service is expected to be largely helpful to the Land Revenue Administration of the country. The low scale of remuneration prevailing hitherto precluded really competent men from coveting these appointments. Government have now introduced a scheme by which not only have the prospects of shekdars who practically constitute the pivot upon which the Revenue Administration hangs, been considerably improved, but also by prescribing a certain standard of training they will be better qualified to discharge their multitudinous duties. The scheme is to be brought into effect gradually as qualified men become available, and when in full force the maximum additional cost will amount to Rs. 62,520 per annum.

Agricultural Banks.

One of the four Agricultural Banks in the Kolar District, *viz.*, that at Subbanahalli in the Goribidnur Taluk went into liquidation during the year ; as, owing to the fraudulent conduct of the agent and the incapacity or unwillingness of the members to manage the affairs of the Bank, the Government was obliged to order the withdrawal of the loan of Rs. 26,000 granted to the Bank.

A scheme for the recovery by easy instalments of the sum of Rs. 7,52,104 advanced to 59 banks other than the two Coffee Banks has been in operation since 1900-01. The total instalments due under it up to the end of June last was Rs. 2,83,470, out of which a sum of Rs. 2,04,155 was collected.

The working of these banks has been as explained in my former addresses far from satisfactory. The banks are being inspected biennially by officers of local influence, with, however, no appreciable improvement in their general condition on account of the indifference and lethargy of the directors and of the general body of members. The Government had to order after repeated warnings the withdrawal of the sums advanced to five other institutions, *viz.*, those at Satanur, Mudavatta, Kyathasandra, Manchakalkuppe and Malebennur. It was also directed that in each bank a register should be maintained showing the credit of each member based on reliable data obtained after necessary investigation and another register for noting the results of enquiry as to the use made of the loans obtained by the members. Under the scheme sanctioned in November 1902 for making advances to the two coffee banks to enable their members to meet the working expenses of their estates, a sum of Rs. 60,069 was advanced during the year; but the results obtained have by no means been encouraging.

The Government of India have after long consideration and much discussion lately passed a measure known as the Co-operative Credit Societies' Act and have also issued a resolution explaining the considerations that influenced them in framing the various provisions of the enactment and indicating the principles according to which they desire that the Act should be worked. The measure avoids any initiation of the movement on too large a scale and the grant of subventions by Government indiscriminately,—defects, which have as I have more than once said, been fatal to the Agricultural Banks of Mysore. According to the Government of India enactment, in the earlier stages of the rural societies, some limited assistance is to be given but this is not to exceed the total amount of money subscribed and deposited or of share capital paid up by the members, or Rs. 2,000 in any case. The action taken by the Government of India to organize credit places at our disposal wider knowledge and larger experience than singly we should have been able to obtain. It has therefore to be considered whether an enactment to the kind framed by the Government of India may not be adopted for Mysore also. In any case, without the interested sympathy and initiation of the leading men of the country, the movement cannot succeed, and it is for you gentlemen to influence and advise the people to move forward and to benefit by the benevolent intentions of Government.

Technical Education.

You will be interested to know how the scheme of technical training outlined in my address of last year has been carried out. The Engineering School started in July 1903 at Mysore made very satisfactory progress in the first year of its existence. The Mysore Industrial School was re-organized and its work has been improved in every department. It has been recently placed under a Superintendent who did excellent work elsewhere and whose services are also utilized for inspecting the other Industrial Schools in the State. The Melkote Industrial School was able to send excellent specimens of silk and cotton cloths woven in the school to the Madras Exhibition of last December. The Hole-Narsipur weaving institute which has, lately been aided made excellent progress in the fly-shuttle hand-loom industry, and its Superintendent was able to invent several mechanical contrivances for warping, sizing and other processes which are suitable for use in small hand-loom factories. At Channapatna a school was opened for the revival of the decaying local manufactures of steel, musical wires, and lacquer work articles for which the town was once famous. A weaving school with carpentry and drawing classes was established at Doddballapur which is reported to be making good progress.

Other weaving schools have lately been opened at Chiknayakanhalli and Molakalmuru. An Industrial School was newly established at Chitaldrug for carpentry, drawing and blacksmiths' work, and a carpentry school was opened in Hole-Narsipur. The Wesleyan Mission has lately appointed an European Superintendent to develop their Industrial School at Tumkur, for which purpose the grant was raised from Rs. 40 to Rs. 165. The old established schools at Kolar and Hassan did good work.

The first batch of five village schoolmasters who were trained in Sericulture in Mr. Tata's Silk Farm have been appointed as Inspectors to visit the villages where silk rearing prevails and help the villagers to breed healthy worms. Two of them have been sent to the Bangalore District, one to Kolar, one to Mysore and one to Tumkur.

A full time drawing master has been appointed in the Mysore Normal School and drawing has been for the present introduced into the F. A. Classes of the Maharaja's College.

Madras Exhibition.

The Mysore Government took part in the Madras Industrial Exhibition and His Highness the Maharaja presided on its opening. The articles of Mysore were exhibited in a separate Court and attracted much attention. A number of medals and prizes were awarded by the Exhibition Committee on account of the excellence of the Mysore exhibits.

Excise.

The main features of the departmental reform are the formation of the taluks of Tarikere and Bagepalli into independent ranges as a relief to the heavy ones of Kadur and Goribidnur respectively, and the placing on a permanent basis of the temporary establishment entertained in connection with the introduction of the tree tax system.

The number of cases of importation and sale of contraband liquor rose from 13 to 43, and it is evident that the traffic in illicit liquors is still going on in spite of persistent efforts to suppress it, indicating that more systematic preventive measures are needed and that the establishment possibly requires strengthening.

The increase of Rs. 72,000 in Excise revenue is due to the rise of 5 per cent in the consumption of arrack on account of the greater prevention of smuggling and of general prosperity in the country. The consumption during the year of arrack was 349,826 gallons, which however was 60,410 gallons less than the average consumption per annum of 410,236 gallons of the quinquennium previous to 1896-97 noticed in my last speech. But the total quantity of country fermented and foreign liquors consumed during the year shows a net decrease of 567,613 gallons as compared with 11,136,620 gallons consumed during 1902.

The retail price of ganja was raised from 1 to 2 annas per tola.

Forest.

The area of the State Forests was increased by 82,780 acres or about 13 square miles, the total area now being 1,950 against 454 in 1881 when the Rendition took place. This extent is exclusive of 1,200 square miles of Ghaut Forest and 183 square miles of 'Kan' Forests.

Nine blocks with an aggregate area of 98,000 acres were notified under the Forest Regulation for settlement and 13 blocks with an aggregate area of 86,076 acres were finally settled and notified. About 124 miles of new demarcation lines were cut. Besides 30 miles of preliminary lines and 740 miles of old lines were recleared. An aggregate area of 600 acres was pitted and stocked, besides the vacancies in previous plantings being filled up to a large extent. Cultural operations were carried out over an area of about 11,000 acres.

The area placed under fire conservancy aggregated 1,826 square miles of which 1,658 square miles were successfully protected; the percentage of success was 97·2 against 92·8 in the previous year.

The Forest Surveyors who have been employed for more than 14 years past were found to have turned out very little work. A special survey party was therefore organized late in the year with Mr. Claudius, a retired Topographical Survey officer of the Government of India at its head. The preparation of accurate maps with sufficient topographical details has been ordered to be taken in hand. About 50 square miles in the Begur and Kakankote State Forests were traversed and plane-tabled by this survey party. The old surveyors also traversed about 195 linear miles in the Shimoga and Kolar Districts. With the progress of this survey, the preparation of accurate working plans will be facilitated.

For speedily effecting the numerous forest settlements now pending and also to secure uniformity in them, a provincial settlement officer has recently been appointed, a revenue officer of experience having been advisedly chosen for the place to safeguard the interests of the raiyat population.

The remaining three chapters of the departmental code were passed during the year and the whole code was brought into force from the beginning of the current year. The audit of Forest accounts was transferred to the State Account Department under the Comptroller to the Government.

The realizations under Timber amounted to Rs. 2,55,500, and under Sandalwood Rs. 10,22,900. The revenue derived from other sources was Rs. 2,96,300.

The surplus revenue of the department amounted to Rs. 10,76,000 against Rs. 10,04,000 of the previous year. The gross receipts are again the highest on record. The increase is chiefly attributed to the higher prices realized from sandalwood and larger sales of timber.

A large quantity of dead sandalwood lying in the interior and somewhat inaccessible places was collected during the year owing to the increased attention paid to its collection. The quantity thus collected is steadily on the increase and there is no danger therefore of the supply in future being materially diminished by growing trees being overworked. The prevalence of Spike disease which has been discovered in parts of the Mysore District has been a cause of concern to Government. The affected tracts were traversed by a special party and all diseased trees uprooted. The subject as I have already said is under scientific investigation.

The demand for timber being hitherto almost purely local and some of our best forests being far away from the railway stations, which added considerably to transport charges, there used to remain a large quantity of timber annually unsold and the prices realised were not quite so good as the quality of timber demanded. In the Kolar Gold Field, a considerable local market has been found for the surplus timber through the medium of Mr. Haji Ismail Sait who has offered fair terms and whose interest it is to exploit the market to the fullest extent. This supply consists of those species of wood which were hitherto not much worked and they thus give relief to teak, honne and one or two other kinds.

The scope existing for further extension of forests is under investigation. In this connection, gentlemen, you are aware that Government have introduced a series of rules with special reference to the agricultural classes giving them several privileges and have always been ready to take into consideration any circumstances which may call for exceptional treatment. I trust, therefore, I shall not be appealing to you in vain to secure the co-operation of every one to preserve the forests without detriment to their recuperative capabilities.

Geological Department.

During the year, revised rules for the grant of mining leases and exploring and prospecting licenses in Mysore were issued.

The renewal of the leases to the older companies to which the Government had in a way been committed from 1888 took place as you know in December 1901. Representations had been made on more occasions than one that the companies required additional working capital, which capitalists declined to supply until they

were assured of the terms of the renewal of the leases, and that therefore the progress of the industry was being much checked.

Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer had at first offered a sliding scale of royalty varying from 2 to 12 per cent graduated according to the quantity of gold produced, but he abandoned it, as such a scale, in his opinion, and rightly also, when based on net profits was likely to lead to differences of opinion between the Government and the companies, and when based on declared dividends might lead to manipulation of the capital. He subsequently proposed another sliding scale based upon an assumed constant relation between the gold produced and net profits. The Government of India found that they could not accept the proposition that net profits increased with the increase of gold production in a fairly regular manner and they also considered that the proposed sliding scale had a tendency to place an unreasonable burden upon such companies as might after many vicissitudes and great outlay be able to develop their mines to some pitch of productiveness and prosperity. They therefore recommended for acceptance the following scheme proposed by Mr. LeMarchant, a member of the India Council :—

(*a*) to maintain the existing royalty on gross profits ;

(*b*) to maintain the 5 per cent rate of that royalty as a maximum, but to graduate it downwards, so as to press less heavily on mines with a low average of returns ; and

(*c*) to impose a charge of about 2½ per cent on dividends with exemption or abatement for companies whose dividends were below some fixed sum, such as £ 25,000 a year.

It looked as if this scheme of the Government of India was largely influenced by considerations relating to the then pending renewals of the Kolar leases and by apprehensions lest any revised scheme for levying royalty on future leases might be made to apply also to the renewed leases of a few rich properties on the Kolar Gold Field. It was therefore deemed expedient to keep the two questions apart, the one involving a declaration of general policy, and the other being a matter of negotiation and mutual agreement. On the Hon'ble Mark Napier arriving in India in December 1901, negotiations were opened with him, and on behalf of the Mining Companies he offered 5 per cent on net proceeds and one per cent on dividends. The ultimate results of the negotiations were however that more profitable terms were obtained and the Kolar leases were renewed with effect from 22nd March 1910, on which date the earliest

lease was to expire, for a period of 30 years, the rate of royalty being 5 per cent on the gross output and in addition 2½ per cent on all dividends.

This prior settlement of the Kolar leases facilitated the early issue of the revised Prospecting and Mining Rules in supersession of those issued in 1898. The very uncertain character of the enterprise needed a large margin of profits to be left to the Mining Companies. It was also necessary that the terms to be imposed should bear as lightly as possible on companies which were starting operations and as much as possible of the money subscribed should be left free for conducting development work. The levy of a fine on assignment or under-lease sometimes led to an irksome scrutiny of the transaction between the lessee and his assignees, besides very probably, if carried out in its entirety necessitating the acceptance by the Government of paid-up shares as part payment of the fine. The creation of joint interest on the part of Government was of questionable propriety and often resulted in losses. Accordingly, in April 1902, a new scheme was proposed the principal features of which were—

(1) the encouragement of the mining industry in its earlier stages by the abolition of all royalty so long as the work was not profitable;

(2) the simple and easily levied tax of 5 per cent on the gross value of the product ; and

(3) in the case of the more successful mines, an additional tax of 5 per cent of any net profit in excess of £ 25,000 per annum.

This scheme which secured the approval of the Government of India has the merit of treating new and struggling concerns with liberality, while at the same time safe-guarding the revenue interests of the State in the event of the industry, as a whole, proving decidedly successful. Various other improvements were also effected in the new scheme. Formerly a licensee could take up not more than 10 square miles for prospecting and was required to pay a fixed fee of Rs. 500. In the new rules the area is not limited except by the discretion of Government and the fees consist of a deposit of not less than Rs. 100 and a rent of Rs. 50 per square mile. The length of the mining block from end to end in any direction has been reduced from two miles to one mile. The prospecting licensee has been given six months in which to start operations instead of one month as under the old rules. During the past twenty years the levy of land revenue assessment on mining blocks had given rise to much trouble and correspondence, and ultimately resulted in the major portion of it being remitted. It had caused great delays in granting leases and had created confusion in the village accounts. A uniform rate of one rupee per acre was therefore substituted in

place of the assessment fixed by the Settlement Department.

The number of mines actually at work at the end of the year was 13 as against 11 in June 1903, the increase being due to the start of development operations on the Ballara Block in the Tumkur District and on the Bodimardi Block in the Chitaldrug District.

The total quantity of bar gold produced in all the mines during the official year was 612,777 ozs. of the value of Rs. 350,32,866, as against 576,837 ozs. of the value of Rs. 330,21,817. The total amount of royalty due to Government for the year 1903-04 was Rs. 17,51,643 as against Rs. 16,51,090 for the year 1902-03, being an increase of Rs. 1,00,553.

Owing to the rapid increase in the work of inspection of mines an additional Inspector was, as you are already aware, appointed last year. The need for a further increase to the staff has been urged upon the Government.

A set of rules was prescribed for the guidance of engine-men and boiler attendants in mines and certain additional rules were also issued under the Mysore Mines Regulation to provide for the safety and discipline of coolies working underground in mines.

The Geological Survey was carried on in the Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts and resulted in the discovery and mapping of an entirely new belt of schists extending along the eastern side of the Chitaldrug belt for a distance of 60 miles with a maximum width of 8 miles, the rocks of which are in many respects similar to those of the Kolar Gold Field.

In the Shimoga District an area of 570 square miles was geologically surveyed and several promising outcrops of manganese ores were located in the jungles on the Shankargudda Range, south of Aiyanur.

Public Works Department.

The total expenditure incurred on works of all descriptions during the year 1903-04, amounted to Rs. 59,62,671, inclusive of the English payment of Rs. 3,67,604 made on account of the second Installation of the Cauvery Power Scheme. Of this amount Rs. 1,80,000 was out of the Civil List.

The restoration of the breached tanks in Kolar, on which a large revenue is dependent, was promptly undertaken, and they were repaired so as to store water for this year's crops.

As in previous years, the progress made on the Marikanave works was very satisfactory. A revised estimate was sanctioned for Rs. 44,67,211 including the cost of the two irrigation channels and head works. The dam was raised from R. L. 86·75 to R. L. 109·40, or by 22·65

feet. Half the length of the subsidiary anikat for the channels was raised six feet above the river-bed, and considerable progress was made in the excavation of the channels. During the flood season of 1903, there was a maximum discharge of 2½ feet over the temporary weir which had been fixed at R. L. 80·00. There were 19,833 units stored in the reservoir at the end of June 1904.

The construction of the new Chikdevarayasagar anikat was sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,03,319 and a good start was made during the working season of the year.

Good progress was secured on the following more important works:—the restoration of the Madore tank above the Hessarghatta tank in the Bangalore District; of the Chillapalli, Holali Somambudi Agrahara and Chendandur tanks in the Kolar District; of the Agrahara tank, of the Kittur anikat and channels in the Hassan District; and the construction of the Mavatur new tank in the Tumkur District and of the new Kalhalli, Chikmadore and Ranikere tanks in the Chitaldrug District. Her Highness the Maharani, late regent, graciously consented to the popular desire to this last tank being named after her.

The works noted below are reported to have been practically completed during the year. The improvement of the irrigation channel of the Ramsagara tank, and the opening out of the right bank channel from the Ramasamudram new tank in the Kolar District, the restoration of the Kyathagankere tank in the Tumkur District and the construction of the new aqueduct on the Chikdevarayasagar channel in the Mysore District.

I referred in my last speech to the preparation of a number of famine protective projects. The Engineer on special duty, completed 17 projects during the year, estimated to cost Rs. 59,03,708; of these, 5 projects, *viz.*, tank near Bidadi across an affluent of Vrishabhavati, at Gudigekunte across Sukkehalla in the Jagalur Taluk and near Hunsur across the Vodli, opening out left irrigation channel from Kudlur anikat, and extending south channel from Sriramadevaru dam, aggregating Rs. 6,06,680, have been sanctioned and the remainder are still under consideration. The preparation of these projects having approached completion, serial maps and tank registers, the necessity for which had long been felt but to prepare which no systematic efforts had been made, were taken in hand. These were practically completed in the rough for all tanks in the Arkavati and the South Pennar Basins. In the North Pennar Basin, preliminary registers for tanks in the Nelamangala Taluk were completed. In the Shimsha Basin, most of the tanks

have been inspected, and information as to capacities, atchkat, revenue and other particulars obtained.

Civil Works—Civil Buildings.

Under Civil Buildings, the principal works in hand during the year were—improvement and additions to the Victoria Hospital at Bangalore ; the construction of the new hospital and quarters for medical officers at the Kolar Gold Fields; the re-construction of the Palace at Mysore, and the construction of a Durbar Hall in the Fern Hill Palace at Ootacamund.

Communications.

Under Communications the following works were practically completed—the widening of the Ooregum Gold Fields Railway feeder; the opening out of the Balaghat-Marikuppam new loop road; the metalling of the Gundlupet-Sultan's Battery road; the construction of bridges in the Hiriyur-Marikanave road, and on the Ananthapur-Tirthahalli roads. Considerable progress was made in the following works—the opening out of the remaining sections of the Hanbal Devarunda and the Saklespur-Gonibid roads, the improvement of the Bisle ghat on the Sukravarasante-Subramanya road; the construction of the bridges over the Lokapavani river at Henakere on the French Rocks Station-Nelligere road ; the bridges over the Amblekehalla Stream on the Tarikere-Mangalore road ; the bridge over the Hemavati at Anjur on the Anemahal-Mudgere road ; and the re-construction of the damaged bridge across the Palar river on the Kolar-Venkatagirikote road.

The Gold Fields Water-supply Project, which was commenced during the previous year on an estimate of 11 lakhs was practically completed; and had it not been for the breaching of the Betamangala tank, the water service to the Gold Fields could have been given during the year. This year the water service will be commenced as soon as the tank fills to the required extent.

The Chamarajendra Reservoir and the Kakol tank immediately above it sustained considerable damage from the floods in November last ; but the re-construction of the damaged weirs and other improvements sanctioned have all been completed most satisfactorily and promptly.

The drainage scheme for the Malleswaram extension in Bangalore was sanctioned and some progress was made. The old standing question as to the incidence of the annual maintenance charges of the Chamarajendra Water Works was definitely settled during the year, the entire actual proceeds of the revenue from water tax and tolls only being assigned from the Municipal Funds for the purpose and the balance required being borne by the State.

The Second Installation for an additional 2,000 Horse Power at the Cauvery Falls applied for by the

Gold Fields progressed rapidly. The outlay on this work during the year was Rs. 6,44,968 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 13,10,000. All new buildings were ready and nearly all the plant were brought to site.

Sanction was lately given at an estimated cost of six lakhs of rupees to the scheme for the electric lighting of the Bangalore City and of the Civil and Military Station, and for the supply of reserve power for industrial purposes from surplus power available after supplying the demands at the Gold Fields. This work was started and the survey of the transmission line into Bangalore was completed; the required buildings are ready to receive the apparatus when it arrives.

In view of the efficient conservancy of the existing channels and their extension and improvement, a new Channel Division has been recently constituted.

The Tank Committee appointed some time ago having completed their deliberations and sent up a report, action was thereupon taken and I may now sketch to you the policy of Government in this direction. It has been found that the rules of 1873 regarding the liability of raiyats to do earth-work to the tanks require hardly any alteration. An addition has been made to Rule 3 that for purposes of fixing the proportion of work to be done, one rupee of the dry or mohatarfa assessment is to be regarded as one-third of a rupee of wet and garden assessment. In order to give legal effect to what is now enforced as a custom with regard to contributions of labor, a Regulation is intended to be passed. The Inamdar's liability to maintain river channels has been defined as not to exceed that of the revenue paying raiyats and this liability will accordingly be restricted only to the removing of weeds and will not extend to silt clearing. The arrears of cost due from them on account of the maintenance undertaken by Government will be remitted.

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Date.....

The next important subject is the restoration and maintenance of what are called minor tanks. At present a distinction is maintained between tanks paying Rs. 300 and under and those paying Rs. 100 and under. For the latter Government was hitherto incurring no expenditure, while for the former it undertook the masonry and stone-work provided the raiyats did the earth-work. Hereafter this distinction will be abolished and all masonry and stone-work will be done by Government under the condition specified. In special cases, however, when the amount of earth-work imposes an unreasonable burden on the raiyats or exceeds the proportion of two to three, discretion is given to the Deputy Commissioner to allow some relaxation. In cases of hardship loans will also

be advanced to raiyats by Government to be recovered from them in easy instalments. For the restoration of minor tanks on the lines indicated by me, His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to sanction a special grant of a lakh of rupees for the current year. Unless the District and other local officers bestir themselves and earnestly give practical effect to these measures no real improvement can be effected. It is hoped that the people also will accord their full co-operation in preserving from deterioration our great heritage of tanks, the usefulness of which cannot be overrated.

Railways.

The percentage of net earnings to capital outlay on the Railways works out as follows:—

	1902-03.	1903-04.
Mysore-Harihar	3·62	3·74
Bangalore-Hindupur	3·50	4·88
Mysore-Nanjangud	1·79	2·21
Birur-Shimoga	0·95	1·10
Kolar Gold Fields Railway ...	6·73	6·96

The percentages of working expenses to gross earnings were 60·80 during the year as compared with 63·77 in 1902-03.

A preliminary report with an abstract estimate for constructing the Bangalore-Chikballapur Light Railway has been received from that Railway Company. It is a good work undertaken by a local company and deserves encouragement. The matter is under reference to the Government of India.

Legislation.

The following were the principal Regulations passed during the year:—

(1) *II of 1903.*—This is nothing more than a measure to give formal effect to the provision contained in Article 24 of the Memorandum of Association to levy the unpaid balance due to Government as arrears of revenue.

(2) *III of 1903.*—This Regulation gives legal form and provides proper administrative machinery for carrying out the sanitary improvements to the Mysore City, which I sketched in my address of last year. A Trust Board has been created under it with special powers to administer the funds placed at their disposal and generally to carry out the necessary works of improvement. The Board has been advisedly made to include of some leading non-official members to secure the sympathy of the people.

In the course of the execution of these improvements, it was found necessary to abate overcrowding of houses and Regulation IV of 1904 provides for this purpose.

The Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code were on the legislative anvil for several years past and it is a matter of satisfaction that they were passed during the year. Several desirable modifications and improvements have been introduced and the law as contained in these

Regulations is up to date and is on a par with the British Indian Law.

Two other Regulations that were passed were the amendment of the Chief Court Regulation and the Whipping Regulation.

Rules under the Local Boards Regulation were published in September 1903. There are at present constituted under the new Regulation eight District Boards, one in each district, 77 Taluk Boards, one in each taluk or sub-taluk and 38 Unions. All these Unions were formerly minor municipalities and they were converted into Unions, as they contained a population of less than 3,000 each.

There were a number of Draft Regulations and Rules under consideration at the end of the year, and of considerable importance and interest, and of these, the Mysore Municipal and the Police Regulations may be specially mentioned. The first Regulation is ready to be issued and awaits the approval of the Government of India. Its distinctive features are that in the first place, it replaces the Municipal Law that is in force in the cities of Mysore and Bangalore, and that has proved unsuitable to their growing needs. Secondly, it provides the various minor municipalities in the State with a law that clearly defines their duties and powers, recognizes their legal existence as corporations, renders them efficient, factors in the administration of sanitary matters and above all, leads to such a constitution of the Boards as ensures the non-official members taking a sufficiently active interest and part in the discharge of Municipal duties. When this legislative measure is sanctioned it may well be looked upon as a land mark in the history of Municipal Administration. It supplies a want which has been felt and the remedy for which has been under consideration for more than two decades.

The Police Draft Regulation is being revised by a special committee of experienced officers and will be soon taken up for consideration by Government.

Judicial.

In civil cases, the total number of original suits and small causes filed was respectively 10,190 and 8,567 during the year as against 10,919 and 7,613 in 1902-03, with an increased total percentage of 1·21. The total number disposed of during the year was 18,901 which was 377 more than the number of the previous year and 144 more than the number filed during the year. The number pending at the end of the year was 6,050 as compared with 6,194 in the previous year.

The number of regular appeals including second appeals filed was 1,260 against 1,166. The number disposed of was 1,186 against 1,044, and the number pending was 1,691 against 1,617 of the previous year showing an increase of 74.

A new Munsiff's Court was established at the Kolar Gold Field, with jurisdiction over the taluks of Malur, Bowringpet and Mulbagal, these taluks being removed from the jurisdiction of the Kolar Munsiff.

The number of heinous and ordinary offences and the number of persons involved were 11,009 and 22,638 respectively as against 13,375 and 27,692 in 1902-03, showing a decreased percentage of 17·68 in offences and 18·25 in the number of persons.

Police.

The number of cognizable cases reported during the year was 5,211 or 871 less than that of the previous year.

The resident criminal gangs were as usual watched by the Village Police in conjunction with the Regular Police. Some gangs in the Bangalore District and about 100 families in the Chitaldrug District were exempted from the operation of the gang rules, as they had taken to peaceful avocations as farm laborers and agriculturists. The time seems now to have come for attempting a systematic colonization of these criminal tribes by settling them on some large areas of cultivable land wherever available in Mysore. The practical aspects of the question however require careful consideration and it is intended to take up this question shortly.

Registration.

A scheme for the reorganization of the Department and for providing better prospects of pay to the special Sub-Registrars and the opening of special Sub-Registry offices at Shikarpur, Nagar, Sorab and Alur were sanctioned at an additional maximum cost of Rs. 8,220 per annum. To secure efficient inspection, the services of Assistant Commissioners have been utilized as Inspectors of Registration Offices.

Education.

The percentage of both boys and girls at school to the total population of school-going age showed a slight decline of ·87, but it has been found that the decline is not due to any permanent causes.

Three Mahomedan students passed the newly established Moulvis' Examination for the first time during the year.

The question of the extension and improvement of primary education engaged the serious attention of Government during the year also. In my last address, I mentioned to you that in order to increase the educational funds, the grant from the Local Funds General had been raised from 25 to 33 per cent. At the same time the village school fund was relieved of the charges of Normal Schools and other institutions to the extent of about Rs. 30,000. Another step taken to obtain larger receipts for this purpose was the revision of the rates of fees levied in schools and colleges. This subject which was under consideration from

1895, demanded a pressing solution. The scale of pay for the Lower Secondary and Primary teachers, which was fixed more than 30 years ago, was found inadequate for their present needs on account of the increase in the prices of articles of food, and that to provide funds for increasing their pay, if for no other reason, it was necessary to levy adequate fees in Lower Secondary and Primary Schools. After much consultation and anxious consideration, the Government decided to introduce a new scale of fees from January last. In the F. A. and B. A. Classes of Colleges, the rates were raised by a rupee each and in the High School Classes by half a rupee. There was an increase of four annas in the Lower Secondary Classes. In the Taluk Vernacular Schools the increase was only by one anna in each class and for the first time, a fee of one anna and two annas were ordered to be levied in the Upper Primary and Middle School Classes of village schools. In every case the fees are to be levied by the month only instead of by half-yearly terms. In the case of the village schools, the levy is only above the Lower Primary Standard up to which the instruction is free. It is too early to gauge the effect of this increase but the measure, however, has the advantage of affording scope for private enterprise which is at present extremely backward, to start schools with the help of a grant-in-aid from Government.

The Inspecting staff requires to be placed on a better footing and the matter requires early consideration.

Muzrai.

The endowments of six temples at Salagami and five other places, which had been resumed during the Inam Settlement on account of their dilapidated condition were restored during the year, as the Institutions were reported to have been since thoroughly repaired and puja revived therein.

For many years past, there had been no satisfactory auditing of Muzrai accounts in the Comptroller's office, the results being that the correct balances in favor of Institutions were not readily ascertainable; and the figures of the District Treasuries were found not in accord with those of the Comptroller's office. These and several other defects connected with the audit of accounts have been set right and suitable measures sanctioned to ensure an efficient check in the Muzrai Secretariat and a satisfactory audit in the Comptroller's office.

Medical and Sanitary.

The total number of patients treated in the several hospitals and dispensaries was 1,131,250 against 993,176. There were in Mysore at the end of the year a total number of 136 hospitals and dispensaries giving an average of one to a population of 41,032 and an area of 205 square miles. The average number of patients treated was 8,379 for every institution.

The total number of births during the year was 84,626 as against 95,155 in the preceding year; and that of deaths was 120,918 as against 109,496. The average ratio of births per mille of the population in Mysore is 18·53 and that of deaths 17·12.

Under cholera, small-pox and plague, the number of deaths underwent a considerable diminution. There were only 121 deaths from cholera against 202 of the previous year and 1,261 deaths from small-pox against 4,216. The number of deaths from fever rose from 44,879 to 52,384, which was only less than the highest figures of 58,907 in 1897-98. There is no doubt that in Mysore fever is the cause of great mortality, the averages for the past two quinquennium being 44,053 and 43,300 respectively. The number of plague attacks and deaths was 26,893 against 36,088 and 20,014 against 26,573 respectively. The diminution in attacks was more than 9,000 while that in deaths was more than 6,000, giving a diminished percentage of ·17 and ·12 respectively to the total population as compared with the previous year.

The people of Mysore both in rural parts as well as cities have now become so used, as you know, to the course of plague that on the first symptoms of an outbreak or reappearance of it, they feel no panic but voluntarily evacuate the infected places and live in sheds outside, in numerous instances constructed at their own cost. The next efficacious remedy, *viz.*, disinfection, is everywhere resorted to, but it is by the comparatively cheap method of desiccation and white-washing instead of by costly chemicals as was the case in the early years of the outbreak, which experience has shown to be impracticable. In 1899-1900 which is the first full year when plague measures were in complete operation, the expenditure amounted to the large sum of more than 4½ lakhs, and an analysis of the figures shows that no less a sum than 1¼ lakhs was spent in the maintenance of large establishments for purposes of direction and supervision. With increased knowledge and ready adoption on the part of the people of precautionary and remedial measures combined with the experience and familiarity gained by the officials also in dealing with the malady, it became possible to effect large savings in the salaries and allowances given formerly and to transfer a large portion of this work to the permanent establishment. The expenditure has thus naturally decreased, and the present amount is ¾ lakh under these heads. For the same reason, there has been a large saving of more than four-fifths of the amount in the expenditure incurred in providing segregation camps, some of which have been constructed as permanent structures, as people merely ask at present for the supply of shed materials, which are given free to the poor and at concession rates to others. The resort to disinfection by

desiccation and lime-washing for all ordinary mud houses and the use of chemicals only for brick-built houses has reduced the expenditure on this account by nearly a half, while the cost of the examination of railway passengers which was a large item in the earlier years shows considerable diminution. In these ways, the plague expenditure in 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 1,15,000, of which about Rs. 12,000 was spent on the demolition of houses and other sanitary improvements in rural parts.

This amount, however, does not represent the whole of the expenditure on sanitary improvements. The total amount provided for expenditure from District Funds on wells, drains, village conservancy, filling in insanitary pits, sanitation on occasions of jatras and other festive gatherings, construction of latrines, and removal of prickly pear and other works was about Rs. 74,000. The moffusil municipalities executed sanitary works costing about Rs. 75,000, of which about Rs. 53,000 was for drains about Rs. 12,000 for improvement of water-supply and the rest on Miscellaneous Public Works. The Government also granted out of the Local Funds General about Rs. 14,000 for wells, water-supply and other sanitary improvements. The expenditure from State Funds on sanitary works undertaken by the Public Works Department, such as the repair and maintenance of water-supply reservoirs, drainage, new extensions and roads, etc., amounted to more than 1¾ lakhs. The total amount thus spent on sanitary improvements in places outside the cities of Mysore and Bangalore amounted to about four lakhs.

As you are already aware, an annual sum of three lakhs is allotted for the improvement of the Mysore City out of which Rs. 1,12,000 was spent by the Trust Board, and His Highness the Maharaja has also been graciously pleased to sanction an annual grant of a lakh of rupees for the next five years for a similar purpose for the Bangalore City. These municipalities have also been exonerated from the payment of loans due to the State amounting to nearly 2½ lakhs of rupees mainly incurred on account of sanitary improvements. The long pending question of the adjustment of the annual working expenses of the Bangalore City Chamarajendra Water-works amounting to about 3½ lakhs to the end of 1902-03 was also decided in a manner most favorable to the municipality by Government waiving their claim to the amount so that the resources thus set free might be utilized for more improvements. A sum of Rs. 50,000 was also spent by Government in Bangalore and Mysore on drainage and water-supply. Recently a sum of Rs. 30,000 was granted for the improvement of the Shimoga town.

While I believe, it may under the circumstances mentioned by me, be presumed that we have not

been wanting in earnest efforts to struggle with this disease I cannot help calling your attention to the fact that the disease is in its seventh year in India and as described by His Excellency Lord Curzon is " defying analysis, defeating the utmost efforts of medical skill and administrative energy, inscrutable in origin, merciless in its ravages, sweeping off very often thousands in a day and tens of thousands in a week." It will not do to slacken our vigilance in any way. In Bombay for instance, where the utmost efforts have been made to stamp out this dreadful malady, there was an increase both in the number of attacks and deaths, the percentages being ·12 and ·18 respectively to the population. While the average rate of death in Mysore from plague was 2·46 per mille of the population, in Bombay it was 4·19. In Madras also the number of attacks and deaths has been increasing from year to year during the past five years in spite of all the efforts made to keep out the enemy. I appeal to you, gentlemen, as the representatives of the people and as persons possessing local influence to give your fullest co-operation and counsel and persuade each and every individual within the sphere of your influence put for his or her best exertion to erradicate this dire disease which has become a common enemy to the whole Indian population, and the ravages of which sometimes grow alarmingly in extent in spite of all preventive efforts till now on the part of the several Governments in India.

While on this subject, I may mention that Mr. Bhore, one of our Assistant Engineers, has been deputed to England to make a special study of Sanitary Engineering as prevailing in Europe.

Conclusion.

Such, gentlemen, is a summary of the main events of the second year of His Highness' Administration. The number of cases that engaged the attention of His Highness amounted to more than 1,100 showing an increase of more than 370 over that of last year and this beneficent exercise of His Highness' personality over all the important business of the State affords a tangible proof of His Highness' great interest in the welfare of his subjects. It is difficult to calculate the extent of obligation under which the Administration is placed to His Highness' inspiring example. The extent of the hold, which His Highness and the Members of the ruling family have established on the affection of the people of Mysore received, as you know a signal confirmation on the occasion of the recent illness of the Yuvaraja, when every heart in Mysore turned with the keenest anxiety to his sick bed at Ajmere, and when under the blessings of God he was restored to health, greeted his return to this country with an unique outburst of joy and with festive demonstration.

P. N. KRISHNA MURTI,
Dewan of Mysore.